

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for an unsolicited offer auction function utilizing a network-based supply chain management framework, comprising:
 - a) receiving on a supply chain management computer sales data from a plurality of independent stores of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the sales data comprising completed sales of goods from a plurality of the independent stores on at least a daily basis;
 - b) allowing a plurality of users to suppliers that have been pre-screened by an independent supply chain manager based on a criteria access to the sales data utilizing a network-based interface, wherein at least one of the suppliers is not a current supplier for the plurality of the independent stores;
 - c) allowing a plurality of the suppliers including the at least one supplier to display and offer at least one product and/or service related to the production or distribution of the goods to the independent stores based on the sales data, wherein each offer is unsolicited and not made in response to an auction but is made based on an assessment by the supplier making the offer of the sales data and at a time controlled solely by the supplier making the offer displaying a plurality of goods to the users accessing the data utilizing the network-based interface;
 - d) allowing each of the plurality of the suppliers including the at least one supplier to display an advertisement relating to the product and/or service offered to at least one of the respective independent stores in conjunction with the offer of the product and/or service by the supplier to the respective independent stores; and
 - e) allowing the acceptance at a time not related to an auction schedule of the offer bids on the goods from by at least one of the independent stores users utilizing the network.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]]1, wherein a charge is required for the advertising.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for an unsolicited offer ~~auction~~-function utilizing a network-based supply chain management framework, comprising:

an electronic storage; and

one or more processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic

a) logic for receiving sales data from a plurality of independent stores of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the sales data comprising completed sales of goods from a plurality of the independent stores on at least a daily basis;

b) logic for allowing a plurality of ~~users to~~ suppliers that have been pre-screened by an independent supply chain manager based on a criteria access to the sales data utilizing a network-based interface, wherein at least one of the suppliers is not a current supplier for the plurality of the independent stores;

c) logic for allowing a plurality of the suppliers including the at least one supplier to display and offer products and/or services related to the production or distribution of the goods to the independent stores based on the sales data, wherein each offer is unsolicited and not made in response to an auction but is made based on an assessment by the supplier making the offer of the sales data and at a time controlled solely by the supplier making the offer ~~displaying a plurality of goods to the users accessing the data~~ utilizing the network-based interface;

d) logic for allowing each of the plurality of the suppliers including the at least one supplier to display an advertisement relating to the product and/or service offered to at least one of the respective independent stores in conjunction with the offer of the product and/or service by the supplier to the respective independent stores; and

e) logic for allowing ~~the acceptance~~ at a time not related to an auction schedule of the offer ~~bids on the goods from by~~ at least one of the independent stores ~~users~~ utilizing the network.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10~~7~~, wherein a charge is required for the advertising.
13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for an unsolicited offer auction function utilizing a network-based supply chain management framework, comprising:
 - a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code comprising
 - a) computer code for receiving sales data from a plurality of independent stores of a franchise supply chain utilizing a network, the sales data comprising completed sales of goods from a plurality of the independent stores on at least a daily basis;
 - b) computer code for allowing a plurality of users to suppliers that have been pre-screened by an independent supply chain manager based on a criteria access to the sales data utilizing a network-based interface, wherein at least one of the suppliers is not a current supplier for the plurality of the independent stores;
 - c) computer code for allowing a plurality of the suppliers including the at least one supplier to display and offer products and/or services related to the production or distribution of the goods to the independent stores based on the sales data, wherein each offer is unsolicited and not made in response to an auction but is made based on an assessment by the supplier making the offer of the sales data and at a time controlled solely by the supplier making the offer displaying a plurality of goods to the users accessing the data utilizing the network-based interface;
 - d) computer code for allowing each of the plurality of the suppliers including the at least one supplier to display an advertisement relating to the product and/or service offered to at least one of the respective independent stores in conjunction with the offer of the product and/or service by the supplier to the respective independent stores; and
 - e) computer code for allowing the acceptance at a time not related to an auction schedule of the offer ~~bids~~ on the goods ~~from by~~ at least one of the independent stores users utilizing the network.
14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.

15. (Cancelled).
16. (Cancelled).
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim ~~46~~13, wherein a charge is required for the advertising.
19. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising charging the suppliers for access to the sales data.
20. (New) The system of claim 7, further comprising logic for charging the suppliers for access to the sales data.
21. (New) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising program code for charging the suppliers for access to the sales data.
22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria is a supplier performance characteristic.
23. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein the criteria is a supplier performance characteristic.
24. (New) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the criteria is a supplier performance characteristic.